Clearance of projects

631. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had submitted a detailed project report for environmental clearance under the National River Action Plan with respect to different rivers passing through and alongwith different towns/districts in the State for implementation under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the project proposals and cost thereof;

(c) at what stage of clearance the different projects stand at present with Government; and

(d) by when the different projects are likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No detailed report has been received from the Government of Maharashtra in this Ministry for environmental clearance under the National River Conservation Plan. However, the Government of Maharashtra has submitted detailed project reports for river pollution abatement for Kolhapur town along river Panchganga (costing Rs. 49.74 crore), Wai town along river Krishna (costing Rs. 53.83 crore), Pandharpur town along river Bhima (costing Rs. 26.57 crore), Prakasha town along river Tapi (costing Rs. 4.62 crore), Paithan town along river Godavari (costing Rs,. 15.72 crore) and Nawapur town along river Rangawali (costing Rs. 4.55 crore) for approval under the National River Conservation Plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan. These projects could not be considered for approval, as the outlay available under the Tenth Five Year Plan is less than the sanctioned cost of projects already approved under the National River Conservation Plan. However, it was suggested that the State Government may undertake these projects out of the State Plan provisions by seeking necessary funds from the Planning Commission including exploring the possibility of initiating the projects with public-private partnership. Subsequently, on seeking the comments on project reports related to the towns of Pandharpur, Prakasha and Paithan by the Planning Commission, these were examined in the Ministry and found to

be lacking in important details and requisite information. Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra has been intimated to revise these project reports.

(d) Does not arise.

Clearance to irrigation projects

632. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the numer of clearances given by his Ministry to Irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh during year 2006;

(d) the details of such projects, district wise;

(c) whether some projects are still under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) One project, namely Vamsadhara irrigation project phase-II of Stage-II in Srikakulam District was granted site clearance during 2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The projects which are still under consideration for grant of environmental clearance are:- (i) Velegonda project in Prakasam District, (ii) Vamsadhara project in Srikakulam District, (iii) Sripadasagar project in Karimnagar district, & (iv) Handri Niva Sujala Shravanthi project in Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, & Chitoor districts.

Horseshoe crabs

632. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the horseshoe crabs that are among the oldest living creatures on earth, are losing a daily battle in Orissa's Chandipore, their last bastion in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that horseshoe crabs that were once available in lakhs in the country are high in demand for their immense medicinal